



# Grace Notes

\*Welcome

\*Worship

\*Praise

## COVID Grace Notes April 9

*Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples. – Matthew 26:35*

The triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The cleansing of the temple. The teaching and the miracles. All displayed their leader's power and the faith of the disciples soared.

Now, on this fifth day of the week, came the most intimate moment of all, the Passover meal, that high holy feast, just the twelve and Jesus. Over and over, at the table, He reiterated His love for them, even kneeling before them to wash their travel-weary feet.

If they had ever doubted, they could no longer do so. What if, as Jesus cautioned, testings and trials lay just ahead. They could face anything. "Lord," Peter assured Him, "I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." (Luke 22:33)

Maundy Thursday corresponds to those times in our own lives when our faith feels unassailable. Surrounded by so many proofs of His love, how could we ever doubt?

Thursday is the most perilous day of our pilgrimage. Because when the test comes, we so often fail. Before day break Peter was swearing he'd never heard of Jesus. Maundy Thursday represents our failures too--the ones which swiftly follow our moments of high commitment. The times when, having made great promises, we fall on our faces. When we let God down and let ourselves down and are left with only the certainty of our own weakness.

Yet, strangely, Thursday also ushers in the most hopeful stage of our journey. Because at last we are truly on the road to Easter. We have learned better than to place our trust in ourselves. "I tell you, Peter," Jesus replied to Peter's confident boast, "the cock will not crow this day, until you three times deny that you know me." (Luke 22:34)

But He said it without condemnation, without rejection. Jesus knew that the way leads through loss. Loss of self-satisfaction and self-sufficiency. He knew that on the other side of Easter, Peter would find the power that never fails.

Allelujah! Thank You that the strength is Yours. (Guidepost – Sent by Jean Tysdal)

**The traditional Grace Baptist Maundy Thursday draping of the cross will be video taped tonight and we hope it is on the website by the time you go to bed. Please do not come to the church, but watch it on the screen of your computer.**

### Narthex News

From one of our members on the frontlines of the coronavirus fight at KU Hospital, Mary Webb: "I am grateful for our leadership here at KU and know that they are doing everything possible to keep us safe and sound. We have had one case in our office (that I am aware of). I was tested but came back negative – Thank God! A new inhaler took care of my asthma problem. I am feeling much better this week."

Ruth Smith, mother of our beloved Linda Smith, died Monday, April 6, 2020, at age 92. She was in The Gardens at Brooke Ridge in Pharr, Texas, when she passed on to heaven. Her remains will be cremated and buried later this summer, along with her husband's remains, in Iowa. Notes can be sent to Linda Smith at 408 Mercury, Mission, Texas 78572.

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Bill Turnage  
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Juliann Hansen  
Custodian

Sunday School  
9:00 a.m.

Worship  
10:15 a.m.

Karen Worship  
2:00 p.m.

"For by grace you have  
been saved through  
faith, and this is not  
your own doing; it is  
the gift of God."  
Ephesians 2:8 NRSV

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Bonnie Hespelt is memorizing Psalm 46 during these days of seclusion. Verses 1 and 2 would be good for all of us: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.”

We have received comments about the COVID worship videos from Kearny, MO and Beloit, WI. Has anyone heard anything from a distance?

Let us join in prayer for Bonnie Broughton. She writes, “I have others problems now. I need your prayers even more. It seems that anything that can go wrong is going wrong. No. Not quite. I don’t have that terrible virus.”

Some coronavirus humor: “Six feet apart is better than six feet under.” “Still haven’t decided where to go for Easter, the living room or the bedroom”

### **ABC One Great Hour of Sharing Addresses COVID-19 Need**

As the United States and the globe deal with the devastation wrought by the coronavirus, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) and International Ministries (IM), seek One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), COVID emergency support to help families, churches and communities find relief and recovery across the United States, Puerto Rico and countries around the world served by IM.

The OGHS COVID RESPONSE is two-part appeal: one part is for relief across the United States and Puerto Rico; the second part is for international relief.

+Funds raised for relief across the United States and Puerto Rico will be utilized by ABHMS through – COVID RECOVERY: RENEWING HOPE AND SERVICE - to address the far-reaching needs created by the current pandemic. Moreover, OGHS contributions will support American Baptist regions and churches dealing with current challenges as well as those that will follow in the weeks and years ahead.

To give to OGHS for support of relief initiatives across the United States and Puerto Rico, Grace Baptist Church or by check payable to American Baptist Home Mission Societies and mailed to the attention of Leda Carter at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, 1075 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406. Write “OGHS-COVID Response: US & PR” on the memo line.

+Funds given to OGHS COVID RESPONSE: INTERNATIONAL for global relief will be used by IM to respond to requests from international partners for emergency grants. Gifts will meet immediate needs for feeding, housing and healthcare for persons impacted by COVID-19, with particular support for emergent and unmet needs of refugees, asylum seekers and immigrant populations.

Donations to OGHS COVID response for support of global relief efforts may be made through Grace Baptist Church or mail a check made payable to International Ministries to International Ministries, 1003 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite A, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Write “OGHS-COVID RESPONSE: INTERNATIONAL: on the memo line.

One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs.

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**American Baptist Churches USA**



*Serving as the hands  
and feet of Christ*